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WALTERS-CIA

BY MIKE WATERS

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY CAN LIVE WITH NEW CONGRESSIONAL GUIDELINES AS LONG AS THEY PROVIDE AVENUES FOR CHANGE, THE AGENCY'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR SAID TODAY.

BUT LT. GEN. VERNON A. WALTERS WOULD NOT OUTLINE THE KIND OF GUIDELINES HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE, SAYING IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE. BUT WALTERS DID SAY THEY SHOULD BE OF SUCH A NATURE THAT FUTURE CIA DIRECTORS WOULD NOT BE CALLED TO TESTIFY AS TO WHY THEY DID NOT ENGAGED IN A PARTICULAR ACTIVITY.

WALTERS, SPEAKING AT AN AMERICAN SECURITY COUNCIL LUNCHEON, ALSO SAID THE GREATEST PROBLEM FACING THE UNITED STATES TODAY IS A LACK OF PERCEPTION BY THE PUBLIC OF THE THREAT FROM ABROAD WHICH FACES THE COUNTRY.

WALTERS SAID THERE CURRENTLY ARE SEVERAL FORMS OF SUPERVISION OVER THE CIA, TWO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF INTELLIGENCE ADVISERS.

AND HE SAID THE AGENCY COULD CONCEIVABLY OPERATE MORE IN THE OPEN.

BUT, WALTERS SAID, IF THE CIA WERE TO OPERATE IN A "GOLDFISH BOWL," IT WOULD BE LIKE GOING TO THE MOON; AMERICANS ARE THE ONLY ONES TO DO IT.

HE SAID THE CIA IS QUITE PREPARED TO LIVE WITH NEW CONGRESSIONALLY IMPOSED GUIDELINES, BUT WALTERS SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AVENUES FOR CHANGE BECAUSE THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF WHAT AN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SHOULD DO WILL CHANGE.

WALTERS SAID THAT MASSIVE CHANGES OPENING UP THE CIA AND ALTERING ITS OPERATIONS COULD LEAD TO AN AGENCY DIRECTOR BEING CALLED UP BY A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO TESTIFY AS TO WHY SOMETHING WAS NOT DONE.

IT HAS NOT BEEN SINCE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WALTERS SAID, THAT ANOTHER COUNTRY HAS BEEN ABLE TO DESTROY THE UNITED STATES.

THERE IS A TREMENDOUS MILITARY EFFORT UNDERWAY BY THE SOVIETS, WALTERS SAID, IN ADDITION TO A GREAT EFFORT ABROAD TO MAKE AMERICANS THINK THEIR INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S ACTIONS ARE IMMORAL.

"I THINK WE'RE FACING A VERY TOUGH SITUATION," WALTERS SAID.

"IF YOU'RE FIGHTING WITH BRASS KNUCKLES," YOU CAN'T FIGHT BY QUEENSBURY RULES, WALTERS SAID.

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